

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) Data display apparatus for displaying the relationships between data sets in a group of data sets resulting from a query of data, said the apparatus comprising:

selecting means for selecting a target data set from the group of data sets of data;

obtaining means for obtaining similarity values among similarities between pairs of unselected ones others of the data sets in the group of data sets of data in order to determine a direction from the target data to each of the other sets of data on a display screen; and

display control means for controlling [[a]] positions for display of representations of the unselected data sets the other sets of data on [[the]] a display screen, wherein the representations of the unselected data sets are positioned around a representation of the target data set on the screen on the basis of the determined direction, and wherein the representations of the unselected data sets are spaced in visual proximity to each other based on the similarities between the pairs of unselected data sets.

50. (Currently Amended) Data display apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the data sets represent images and said display control means is adapted to control the display means to cause the display screen to display the images as the representations thereof sets of data as images.

51. (Currently Amended) Data display apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain the similarities by obtaining similarity values representing the similarity between the target data set and the unselected data sets in the group, and wherein said display control means is adapted to control the said display means to cause the display screen to display links between representations and to cause the display screen to display a link in a first style if the similarity value associated with the link is above the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount and to display a link in a second style if the similarity value associated with the link is below the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount.

52. (Currently Amended) A data display method of displaying the relationship relationships between data sets in a group of data sets resulting from a query of data, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting accepting a selection of a target data set from the group of data sets of data;

obtaining similarity values among similarities between pairs of unselected ones others of the data sets in the group of data sets of data in order to determine a direction from the target data to each of the other sets of data on a display screen; and
controlling [[a]] positions for display of representations of the unselected data sets other sets of data on [[the]] a display screen, wherein the representations of the unselected data sets are positioned around a representation of the target data set on the screen on the basis of the determined direction, and wherein the representations of the unselected data sets are spaced in visual proximity to each other based on the similarities between the pairs of unselected data sets.

53. (Currently Amended) A data display method according to claim 52, wherein the data sets represent images and the controlling step display means is controlled to display the sets of data as images controls the display means to cause the display screen to display the images as the representations thereof.

54. (Currently Amended) A data display method according to claim 52, wherein the similarities are determined by obtaining similarity values representing the similarity between the target data set and the unselected data sets in the group, and wherein the controlling step causes the display screen to display links between representations with means is controlled to display a link being displayed in a first style if the similarity value associated with the link is above the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount and to display with a link being displayed in a second style if the

similarity value associated with the link is below the mean of the similarity values by a predetermined amount.

55. to 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising:

query receiving means for receiving an input query; and

determining means for determining ~~similarity values representing~~ similarities between the input query and data representing the group of data sets of data,
~~wherein a data receiving means is arranged to receive the sets of data and~~
~~the similarity values from said determining means.~~

69. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said determining means comprises accessing means for accessing a database and comparing means for comparing the input query with the data representing the group of data sets of data to determine the similarities similarity values.

70. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said query receiving means is arranged to receive a textual input query and said determining means is arranged to determine similarities between the textual input query and descriptive caption data representing the data sets of data.

71. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said determining means comprises accessing means for accessing a database and comparing means for performing a natural language comparison between the input query and descriptive caption data representing the data sets of data to determine the similarities similarity values.

72. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said comparing means is adapted to compare a meaning of the input query with a meaning of the caption data.

73. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said display control means is adapted to select a representation of the set of data set determined to be the most similar having the similarity values representing the most similarity to the input query as a focal representation, and to control the display means to display representations of at least some others the rest of the group of data sets of data around the focal representation at distances dependent upon the determined similarities similarity values.

74. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said display control means is adapted to control [[the]] said display means to display thumbnail images representing of the said data sets of data as the representations.

75. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 68, further comprising means for receiving a selection signal following selection of one of the representations as a new query, said display control means being responsive to the selection signal to control the display means to display the selected representation at a central position and to display the representations for the data sets of data most similar to the selected representation around the selected representation at distances in accordance with the similarities similarity values.

76. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 52, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an input query; and
determining similarity values representing similarities between the input query and data representing the data sets of data;
~~wherein, in a data receiving step, the sets of data and the similarity values determined in said determining step are received.~~

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein said determining step comprises the steps of accessing a database and comparing the input query with the data representing the data sets of data to determine the similarities similarity values.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 76, wherein a textual input query is received in said input query receiving step, and similarities between the textual input query and descriptive caption data representing the data sets of data are determined in said determining step.

79. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 76, wherein said the determining step comprises the steps of accessing [[a]] the database and performing a natural language comparison between the input query and descriptive caption data representing each data set the sets of data to determine the similarities similarity values.

80. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 79, wherein a meaning of the input query is compared with a meaning of the caption data in said performing step.

81. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 76, wherein in said display controlling step, the representation of the data set determined to have set of data having the most similarity values representing the most similarity to the input query is selected as a focal representation, and the display means is controlled to display the wherein representations of at least some others the rest of the group of data sets are displayed of data around the focal representation at distances dependent upon the determined similarities similarity values.

82. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 52, wherein in said display controlling step, the display means screen is controlled to display thumbnail images of the data sets of data as the representations.

83. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 76, further comprising the steps of receiving a selection signal following the selection of one of the representations as a new query[[],] and, in response to the selection signal, controlling the display means screen to display the selected representation at a central position and to display the representations for the data sets of data most similar to the selected representation around the selected representation at distances in accordance with the determined similarities similarity values.

84. to 86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for controlling a processor to carry out a method according to claim 52.

88. (Previously Presented) A signal carrying instructions for controlling a processor to carry out a method according to claim 52.

89. (Cancelled).

90. (Cancelled).

91. (New) Data display apparatus for displaying relationships between a group of data sets, the apparatus comprising:

selecting means for selecting a target data set from the group of data sets;

determining means for determining a similarity between each of the other data sets in the group and the target data set;

display control means for controlling display means to cause a display screen to display representations of the target data set and at least some of the other data sets in the group;

and relative location determining means for determining the relative locations on the display screen of each of second representations representing the at least some of the data sets and a first representation representing the target data set, the relative location determining means being operable, for each of the second representations, to control an x coordinate and a y coordinate of the relative location of the second representation on the display screen in accordance with the similarity between the data set represented by that second representation and the target data set so as to produce on the display screen a two-dimensional arrangement with the second representations positioned around the first representation with the x and y coordinates of the relative location of each second representation being determined by the similarity between the data set represented by that second representation and the target data set.

92. (New) Data display apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the data sets represent images and said display control means is adapted to control the display means to cause the display screen to display the images as the representations.

93. (New) A data display method of displaying relationships between a group of data sets, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a target data set from the group of data sets;

determining a similarity between each of the other data sets in the group and the target data set;

controlling display means to cause a display screen to display representations of the target data set and at least some of the other data sets in the group;

and determining the relative locations on the display screen of second representations representing the at least some of the data sets and a first representation representing the target data set by, for each of the second representations, controlling an x coordinate and a y coordinate of the relative location of the second representation on the display screen in accordance with the similarity between the data set represented by that second representation and the target data set so as to produce on the display screen a two-dimensional arrangement with the second representations positioned around the first representation with the x and y coordinates of the relative location of each second representation being determined by the similarity between the data set represented by that second representation and the target data set.

94. (New) Data display apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the relative location determining means is operable to determine the relative locations such that the representation representing the target data set is at a central focus of the representations on the display screen.

95. (New) A data display method according to claim 93, wherein the relative locations are determined such that the representation representing the target data set is at a central focus of the representations on the display screen.